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EXAMINER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/676,246	BARRETT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	PATRICK A. RYAN	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *04 March 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,3,5,7,8,11-19 and 22-35* is/are pending in the application.

     4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,3,5,7,8,11-19 and 22-35* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

     a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

         1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

         2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

         3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

     * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Office Action is made in response to Response to Non-Final Office Action ("Applicants Response"), received March 4, 2008. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 5, 8, 19, 29, and 31; and has canceled Claims 2, 6, 9, 10, 20, and 21. As amended and currently pending, Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11-19, and 22-35 are presented for examination.

2.   Applicant as amended the specification Paragraph [0083] "pay-per-view (PPV) content" from element 642 to element 650 to provide proper support for Figure 6. In view of this amendment, the objection to the disclosure has been withdrawn.

Claim Objections

3.   Claims 1 and 5 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 1 and 5 each recite the limitation "reducing the scale of a video feed to produce its "thumbnail" video feed" and the limitation "transmitting one or more audio feeds separately from the video feeds over the communications network". The "reducing" limitation distinguishes "a video feed" and "its thumbnail video feed", but this distinction is not clear in the "transmitting" limitation, which recites "the video feeds". For the purpose of this Office Action, the Examiner will assume "the video feeds" as recited in the "transmitting" limitation is intended to be in reference to the "thumbnail video feed" of the "reducing" limitation. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4.   The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5.   Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11-19, and 22-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first

paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s)

contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to

reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the

application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant provides

reference to Paragraphs [0032], [0044]-[0048], [0052], and [0064] of the Specification to

support of all amended claim limitations. In particular, the Applicant lacks sufficient

support for the claimed limitation: transmitting "without multiplexing" a plurality of

reduced scale thumbnail video feeds (of Claims 1 and 5) and the claimed limitation:

receiving/displaying "non-multiplexed" scaled-reduced versions of video feeds (of

Claims 8, 19, 29, and 31).

Paragraph [0032] recites "...UI [User Interface] producer does not utilize tuners

to receive multiple video feeds...", and "Rather, it uses a communications network."

Paragraph [0044] describes "...a methodological implementation of the exemplary

video-feed miniaturizer." Paragraphs [0045]-[0046] describe the preparation of a video

feed for miniaturization by reducing the video feed resolution. Paragraphs [0047]-[0048]

describe receiving a request for a thumbnail video feed from the receiver and sending

the thumbnail video feed to the receiver. Paragraph [0052] describes the production of

the UI where in "…audio and video are sent to the receiver separately…" and

Paragraph [0064] describes the generation of a "[Picture-in-Picture] PIP-type UI" where

"…the user is not limited by the number of tuners of her multimedia system. Rather, she

is limited by the bandwidth available for sending multiple thumbnail video feeds." The

above cited paragraphs provide no teaching for the transmission and reception of

reduced scale video feeds by way of means other than multiplexing.

For the purpose of this Office Action, the Examiner submits the following

definition of "multiplex" *adj.* "Relating to or being a system of simultaneous

communications of two or more messages on the same wire or radio channel." (The

American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, 2006 Houghton

Mifflin Company). In view of this definition, the Examiner interprets "without

multiplexing" and "non-multiplexed" to mean the communication of two or more

messages on a different wire or radio channel. In view of this definition and in light of

Applicant's Paragraph [0052], reciting: "…audio and video are sent to the receiver

separately…", the Examiner interprets the words "non-multiplexing" and "without

multiplexing" to apply to the limitations of transmitting and receiving "one or more audio

feeds separately from the video feeds over the communications network" as recited in

Amended Claims 1, 5, 8, 19, 29, and 31.

Response to Arguments

6.   Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11-19, and 22-35 have

been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7.   In regards to Claims 1, 5, 8, 19, 29, and 31, Applicant submits that Zaslavsky

does not teach the limitation of "receiving a request for a plurality of the thumbnail video

feeds" (as recited in Applicants Response Paragraphs [0023], [0032]. Applicant asserts

that "the video streams are not transmitted "in response to a request." Rather, a

standard set of video streams is transmitted, and selection is only performed after the

single video stream is transmitted and received." (as recited in Applicants Response

Paragraphs [0026] and [0034]).

8.   The Examiner submits that elements 401 and 402, which are used to create the

thumbnail video streams , "typically would be implemented in software using a head-end

based server, and then those signals would be broadcast along with the regular

channels as shown in broadcast channel 410" (with reference to Paragraph [0128] of

Zaslavsky). Therefore the thumbnail video feeds are generated prior to transmission at

the head-end server, not once received at the user location as Applicant asserts. In

addition, Zaslavsky teaches a number of ways the user may interact with the EPG

system, such as remote controller 150, as disclosed in Paragraph [0104]. Further

reference is made to Zaslavsky's teaching of "downloading the video signals into a pixel

memory" (Paragraph [0107]) in which a user may customize what information is

displayed in the EPG.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

10.   Claims 31, 34, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated

by Zaslavsky (of record).

11.   In regards to Claim 31, Zaslavsky teaches a computer-readable medium having

computer-executable instructions (hardware 1700, as described in Paragraph [0141])

that, when executed by a computer (CPU 200 as described in Paragraph [0096] Lines

9-11), produce a user-interface (UI) of a multimedia system, the UI comprising multiple

"thumbnail" display areas (interface block 803 of Fig. 14, as described in Paragraph

[0135]), each area configured to display a non-multiplexed reduced-scale ("thumbnail")

video feed received, in response to a request, via a communications network (display

areas are shown as any one of elements 810a-f, as described in Paragraph [0135]. In

addition, "User input selecting "channel" for textural mapping" received by input circuit

1708 of Fig. 17, also see Fig. 18 and Paragraph [0141-0142]. With further reference to

"downloading the video signals into a pixel memory", as disclosed in Paragraph [0107]).

12.   In regards to Claim 34, Zaslavsky teaches a medium as recited in Claim 31,

wherein each thumbnail video feed displayed is a separate and distinct video feed

(video streams 810x, 810y, and 810z of Fig. 16, as described in Paragraph [0138] Lines 4-13).

13.   In regards to Claim 35, Zaslavsky teaches a medium as recited in Claim 31, wherein the UI further comprises an executable program module configured to respond to user selection of one of the multiple thumbnail display areas (transducer 212 of Fig. 7, as described in Paragraph [0097] Lines 1-9).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

15.   Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 15-19, 22, 25-30, 32, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zaslavsky (of record) in view of Norsworthy (of record).

16.   In regards to Claim 1, Zaslavsky teaches a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions (hardware 1700, as described in Paragraph [0141]) that, when executed by a computer (CPU 200 as described in Paragraph [0096] Lines 9-11), performs a method comprising: reducing the scale of a video feed to produce its "thumbnail" video feed (size conversion function 401 of Figure 10, as described in Paragraph [0127]); receiving a request for a plurality of the thumbnail video feeds ("User input selecting "channel" for textural mapping" received by input circuit 1708 of Fig. 17,

also see Fig. 18 and Paragraph [0141-0142]. With further reference to "downloading

the video signals into a pixel memory", as disclosed in Paragraph [0107]); transmitting,

in response to the request and without multiplexing, the thumbnail video feeds over a

communications network (broadcast channel 410 of Fig. 10, as described in Paragraph

[0128], showing multiple reduced scale thumbnail video feeds 1-100 and 101-x).

Zaslavsky does not teach transmitting one or more audio feeds separately from the

video feeds over the communications network.

In a similar field of invention, Norsworthy teaches a method for generating,

distributing, and receiving a transport stream containing compressed video and graphics

information. Norswothy's method further comprises the construction and display of an

Electronic Program Guide (Fig. 7) that includes informational displays 71-74 and signals

701-704 (as disclosed in Col. 6 Lines 8-14). Norsworthy further teaches transmitting

audio and video signals in separate streams using Tuner 11 for video and Tuner 91 for

audio, as shown in Fig. 9 and described Col. 4 Lines 59-62; with further reference to

Col. 3 Lines 27-55.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combined the scaled-reduced video feed method of Zaslavsky with

Norsworthy's method of transmitting audio and video streams separately because the

multiple tuner system allows for audio to be displayed with a main picture while allowing

a user to tune to multiple picture-in-picture feeds on the same display at the same time

(as Norsworthy discloses in Col. 3 Lines 33-55).

17.   In regards to Claim 3, the combination of Zaslavsky and Norsworthy teach a medium as recited in Claim 1, wherein the method further comprises preprocessing the video feed to aid in producing a low-resolution version (Zaslavsky teaches further processing with encoding and multiplexer element 402 to create separate stream 1-100, as disclosed in Paragraph [0127], where the stream could be "converted down to 20x16 pixels for example").

18.   In regards to Claim 4, the combination of Zaslavsky and Norsworthy teach a computing device (CPU 200 as described in Paragraph [0096] Lines 9-11) comprising: a media-stream transmitter (transmission circuit 1806 of Figure 18, as described in Paragraph [0142] Lines 9-11); a medium as recited in Claim 1 (the limitations of the method of Claim 1 have been addressed above).

19.   In regards to Claim 5, Zaslavsky teaches a method comprising reducing the scale of a video feed to produce its "thumbnail" video feed (size conversion function 401 of Figure 10, as described in Paragraph [0127]); receiving a request for a plurality of the thumbnail video feeds ("User input selecting "channel" for textural mapping" received by input circuit 1708 of Fig. 17, also see Fig. 18 and Paragraph [0141-0142]. With further reference to "downloading the video signals into a pixel memory", as disclosed in Paragraph [0107]); transmitting, in response to the request and without multiplexing, the thumbnail video feeds over a communications network (broadcast channel 410 of Fig. 10, as described in Paragraph [0128], showing multiple reduced scale thumbnail video

feeds 1-100 and 101-x). Zaslavsky does not teach transmitting one or more audio

feeds separately from the video feeds over the communications network.

In a similar field of invention, Norsworthy teaches a method for generating,

distributing, and receiving a transport stream containing compressed video and graphics

information. Norswothy's method further comprises the construction and display of an

Electronic Program Guide (Fig. 7) that includes informational displays 71-74 and signals

701-704 (as disclosed in Col. 6 Lines 8-14). Norsworthy further teaches transmitting

audio and video signals in separate streams using Tuner 11 for video and Tuner 91 for

audio, as shown in Fig. 9 and described Col. 4 Lines 59-62; with further reference to

Col. 3 Lines 27-55.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combined the scaled-reduced video feed method of Zaslavsky with

Norsworthy's method of transmitting audio and video streams separately because the

multiple tuner system allows for audio to be displayed with a main picture while allowing

a user to tune to multiple picture-in-picture feeds on the same display at the same time

(as Norsworthy discloses in Col. 3 Lines 33-55).

20.   In regards to Claim 7, the combination of Zaslavsky and Norsworthy teach a

method as recited in Claim 5, further comprising preprocessing the video feed to aid in

producing a low-resolution version (these limitations have been addressed above with

reference to Claim 3).

21.   In regards to Claim 8, Zaslavsky teaches a computer-readable medium having

computer-executable instructions that (program memory 202, as described in

Paragraph [0096] Lines 9-11), when executed by a computer (CPU 200 as described in

Paragraph [0096] Lines 9-11), performs a method comprising receiving, in response to

a request, a plurality of non-multiplexed scaled-reduced versions of video feeds

("thumbnail video feeds") over a communication network (broadcast channel 410 of Fig.

10, as described in Paragraph [0128], showing multiple reduced scale thumbnail video

feeds 1-100 and 101-x. In addition, "User input selecting "channel" for textural

mapping" received by input circuit 1708 of Fig. 17, also see Fig. 18 and Paragraph

[0141-0142]. With further reference to "downloading the video signals into a pixel

memory", as disclosed in Paragraph [0107]). Zaslavsky does not teach receiving one or

more audio feeds separately from the thumbnail video feeds; constructing and

presenting a user-interface (UI) comprising the thumbnail video feeds; and presenting

audio that corresponds to one of the presented thumbnail video feeds.

In a similar field of invention, Norsworthy teaches a method for generating,

distributing, and receiving a transport stream containing compressed video and graphics

information. Norswothy's method further comprises the construction and display of an

Electronic Program Guide (Fig. 7) that includes informational displays 71-74 and signals

701-704 (as disclosed in Col. 6 Lines 8-14). Norsworthy further teaches transmitting

audio and video signals in separate streams using Tuner 11 for video and Tuner 91 for

audio, as shown in Fig. 9 and described Col. 4 Lines 59-62; with further reference to

Col. 3 Lines 27-55.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combined the scaled-reduced video feed method of Zaslavsky with

Norsworthy's method of transmitting audio and video streams separately because the

multiple tuner system allows for audio to be displayed with a main picture while allowing

a user to tune to multiple picture-in-picture feeds on the same display at the same time

(as Norsworthy discloses in Col. 3 Lines 33-55).

In addition, Norsworthy's method comprises a display having a main picture 21

and a plurality of other picture-in-picture displays 21-1 through 22-n (as disclosed in

Col.3 Lines 39-45 with reference to Fig. 2). Norsworthy's method is implemented using

a specific tuner to display the picture-in-picture images (tuner 11 of Fig. 2, as described

in Col. 3 Lines 34-38).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combined the scaled-reduced video feed method of Zaslavsky with the

display method of Norsworthy because the user would gain the ability to view multiple

channels at one time (as Norsworthy discloses in Col.1 lines 21-27).

22.   In regards to Claim 11, the combination of Zaslavsky and Norsworthy teach a

medium as recited in Claim 8, wherein the method further comprises receiving a

highlight indication for one of the presented thumbnail video feeds (Zaslavsky teaches a

highlighted frame of channel 911 shown in Fig. 15, as disclosed in Paragraph [0137]

Line 3); presenting audio that corresponds to that highlighted one of the presented

thumbnail video feeds (Norsworthy teaches presenting audio corresponding to a

selected main channel, which is one of a number of picture-in-picture video streams, as

disclosed in Col. 3 Lines 36-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combined the highlighted indication method of Zaslavsky with Norsworthy's

method of transmitting audio and video streams separately because the multiple tuner

system allows for audio to be displayed with a main picture while allowing a user to tune

to multiple picture-in-picture feeds on the same display at the same time (as Norsworthy

discloses in Col. 3 Lines 33-55).

23.   In regards to Claims 15 and 16, the combination of Zaslavsky and Norsworthy

teach a medium as recited in Claim 8, wherein the UI that is constructed and presented

further comprises information associated with the one or more thumbnail video feeds;

and wherein the UI that is constructed and presented further comprises electronic

program information associated with the one or more thumbnail video feeds

(Norswothy's method comprises the construction and display of an Electronic Program

Guide (Fig. 7) that includes informational displays 71-74 and signals 701-704, as

disclosed in Col. 6 Lines 8-14).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combined the scaled-reduced video feed method of Zaslavsky with the

information display method of Norsworthy because this information and video display

would give the viewer a general visual impression of what is on the channel (as

disclosed by Norsworthy is Col. 6 Lines 1-5), which would therefore further aid the view

in determining if the program is desirable enough to watch.

24.   In regards to Claim 17, the combination of Zaslavsky and Norsworthy teach a

medium as recited in Claim 8, wherein the UI that is constructed and presented further

comprises an on-going full-scale video feed (Norsworthy's method comprises a display

having a main picture 21 and a plurality of other picture-in-picture displays 21-1 through

22-n, as disclosed in Col.3 Lines 39-45 with reference to Fig. 2. Norsworthy's method is

implemented using a specific tuner to display the picture-in-picture images, with

reference to Tuner 11 of Fig. 2, as described in Col. 3 Lines 34-38).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combined the scaled-reduced video feed method and medium of Zaslavsky

with the display method and medium of Norsworthy because the user would gain the

ability to view multiple channels at one time (as Norsworthy discloses in Col.1 lines 21-

27).

25.   In regards to Claim 18, the combination of Zaslavsky and Norsworthy teach a

computing device (CPU 200 as described in Paragraph [0096] Lines 9-11) comprising: a

media-stream presentation device (transmission circuit 1806 of Figure 18, as described

in Paragraph [0142] Lines 9-11); a medium as recited in Claim 8 (the limitations of

Claim 8 have been addressed above).

26.   In regards to Claim 19, Zaslavsky teaches a method facilitating production of a

user-interface (UI), the method comprising receiving, in response to a request, one or

more a plurality of non- multiplexed scale-reduced versions of video feeds ("thumbnail

video feeds") over a communication network (broadcast channel 410 of Fig. 10, as

described in Paragraph [0128], showing multiple reduced scale thumbnail video feeds

1-100 and 101-x. In addition, "User input selecting "channel" for textural mapping"

received by input circuit 1708 of Fig. 17, also see Fig. 18 and Paragraph [0141-0142].

With further reference to "downloading the video signals into a pixel memory", as

disclosed in Paragraph [0107]); Zaslavsky does not teach receiving one or more audio

feeds separately from the thumbnail video feeds; constructing and presenting a user-

interface (UI) comprising the thumbnail video feeds; and presenting audio that

corresponds to one of the presented thumbnail video feeds.

In a similar field of invention, Norsworthy teaches a method for generating,

distributing, and receiving a transport stream containing compressed video and graphics

information. Norswothy's method further comprises the construction and display of an

Electronic Program Guide (Fig. 7) that includes informational displays 71-74 and signals

701-704 (as disclosed in Col. 6 Lines 8-14). Norsworthy further teaches transmitting

audio and video signals in separate streams using Tuner 11 for video and Tuner 91 for

audio, as shown in Fig. 9 and described Col. 4 Lines 59-62; with further reference to

Col. 3 Lines 27-55.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combined the scaled-reduced video feed method of Zaslavsky with

Norsworthy's method of transmitting audio and video streams separately because the

multiple tuner system allows for audio to be displayed with a main picture while allowing

a user to tune to multiple picture-in-picture feeds on the same display at the same time

and hear audio corresponding the selected video feed (as Norsworthy discloses in Col.

3 Lines 33-55).

In addition, Norsworthy's method comprises a display having a main picture 21

and a plurality of other picture-in-picture displays 21-1 through 22-n (as disclosed in

Col.3 Lines 39-45 with reference to Fig. 2). Norsworthy's method is implemented using

a specific tuner to display the picture-in-picture images (tuner 11 of Fig. 2, as described

in Col. 3 Lines 34-38).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combined the scaled-reduced video feed method and medium of Zaslavsky

with the display method and medium of Norsworthy because the user would gain the

ability to view multiple channels at one time (as Norsworthy discloses in Col.1 lines 21-

27).

27.   In regards to Claim 22, the combination of Zaslavsky and Norsworthy teach a

method as recited in Claim 19 further comprising receiving a highlight indication for one

of the presented thumbnail video feeds; presenting audio that corresponds to that

highlighted one of the presented thumbnail video feeds (these limitations have been

addressed with reference to Claim 11 as cited above).

28.   In regards to Claim 25 and 26, the combination of Zaslavsky and Norsworthy

teach a method as recited in Claim 19, wherein the UI that is constructed and presented

further comprises information associated with the one or more thumbnail video feeds;

and wherein the UI that is constructed and presented further comprises electronic

program information associated with the one or more thumbnail video feeds (these

limitations have been address with reference to Claims 15 and 16 as cited above).

29.   In regards to Claim 27, the combination of Zaslavsky and Norsworthy teach a

method as recited in Claim 19, wherein the UI that is constructed and presented further

comprises an on-going full-scale video feed (these limitations have been address with

reference to Claim 17 as cited above.

30.   In regards to Claim 28, the combination of Zaslavsky and Norsworthy teach a

computer comprising one or more computer-readable media having computer-

executable instructions (Zaslavsky discloses a CPU 200 as described in Paragraph

[0096] Lines 9-11; with further reference to hardware 1700, as described in Paragraph

[0141]) that, when executed by the computer, perform the method as recited in Claim 19

(the limitations of Claim 19 have been address as cited above).

31.   In regards to Claim 29, Zaslavsky teaches a multimedia system comprising a

receiving unit configured for receiving, in response to a request, a plurality of non-

multiplexed scaled-reduced version of video feeds ("thumbnail video feeds") over a

communication network (broadcast channel 410 of Fig. 10, as described in Paragraph

[0128], showing multiple reduced scale thumbnail video feeds 1-100 and 101-x. In

addition, "User input selecting "channel" for textural mapping" received by input circuit

1708 of Fig. 17, also see Fig. 18 and Paragraph [0141-0142]. With further reference to

"downloading the video signals into a pixel memory", as disclosed in Paragraph [0107]);

a user-interface (UI) generator configured to generate a UI comprising the thumbnail

video feeds (interface block 803 of Fig. 14, as described in Paragraph [0135]); a

presentation device configured for presentation of the UI ("The EPG can be displayed

on a television, personal computer, or a device that is a combination..." as disclosed in

Paragraph [0114] Lines 7-9). Zaslavsky does not teach one or more audio feeds

separately from the thumbnail video feeds over a communication network and audio

that corresponds to one of the presented thumbnail video feeds.

In a similar field of invention, Norsworthy teaches a method for generating,

distributing, and receiving a transport stream containing compressed video and graphics

information. Norswothy's method further comprises the construction and display of an

Electronic Program Guide (Fig. 7) that includes informational displays 71-74 and signals

701-704 (as disclosed in Col. 6 Lines 8-14). Norsworthy further teaches transmitting

audio and video signals in separate streams using Tuner 11 for video and Tuner 91 for

audio, as shown in Fig. 9 and described Col. 4 Lines 59-62; with further reference to

Col. 3 Lines 27-55.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combined the scaled-reduced video feed method of Zaslavsky with

Norsworthy's method of transmitting audio and video streams separately because the

multiple tuner system allows for audio to be displayed with a main picture while allowing

a user to tune to multiple picture-in-picture feeds on the same display at the same time

(as Norsworthy discloses in Col. 3 Lines 33-55).

In addition, Norsworthy's method comprises a display having a main picture 21 and a plurality of other picture-in-picture displays 21-1 through 22-n (as disclosed in Col.3 Lines 39-45 with reference to Fig. 2). Norsworthy's method is implemented using a specific tuner to display the picture-in-picture images (tuner 11 of Fig. 2, as described in Col. 3 Lines 34-38).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combined the scaled-reduced video feed method and medium of Zaslavsky with the display method and medium of Norsworthy because the user would gain the ability to view multiple channels at one time (as Norsworthy discloses in Col.1 lines 21-27).

32.   In regards to Claim 30, the combination of Zaslavsky and Norsworthy teach a system as recited in Claim 29 further comprising a UI selection device configured for the user to either highlight or select the one or more thumbnail video feeds (Zaslavsky discloses an alphanumeric keyboard 218 of Fig. 7, as described in Paragraph [0112] Lines 14-19).

33.   In regards to Claims 32 and 33, Zaslavsky teaches a medium as recited in Claim 31, but does not teach wherein the UI further comprises at least one information display area configured to display information associated with a corresponding thumbnail video feed.

In a similar field of invention, Norsworthy teaches a method for generating, distributing, and receiving a transport stream containing compressed video and graphics

information. Norswothy's method further comprises the construction and display of an

Electronic Program Guide (Fig. 7) that includes informational displays 71-74 and signals

701-704 (as disclosed in Col. 6 Lines 8-14). Norsworthy's method is implemented in a

memory module (memory 14) connected to a processor (video processing 15 as

disclosed in Col. 4 Lines 26-34).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combined the scaled-reduced video feed method and medium of Zaslavsky

with the information display method and medium of Norsworthy because this

information and video display would give the viewer a general visual impression of what

is on the channel (as disclosed by Norsworthy is Col. 6 Lines 1-5), which would

therefore further aid the view in determining if the program is desirable enough to watch.

34.   Claims 12, 13, 14, 23, and 24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Zaslavdky and Norsworthy as applied to Claims 8 and 19 above, and

further in view of Gordon (of record).

35.   In regards to Claims 12, 13, 14, 23, and 24 Zaslavsky teaches a method for

facilitating the construction, presentation, and production of a UI comprising receiving

one or more scaled-reduced version video feeds sent over a communications network,

but does not teach requesting a full-scale version of a select one of the presented

thumbnail video feeds and zooming the select one of the presented thumbnail video

feeds so that it inhabits much or all of the available screen space.

In a similar field of invention, Gordon teaches a method for generating, distributing, and receiving a transport stream containing compressed video and graphics information. Gordon's method further comprises "interacting with an object by selecting it to activate a full-resolution broadcast channel" (as disclosed in Col. 24 Lines 11-14). Following the selection in the thumbnail view (shown as CH-E of Fig 28), the display changes to a full-resolution view (display 2802 of Fig 28) of the video broadcast for channel E (as disclosed in Col. 24 Lines 14-19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combined the scaled-reduced video feed method of Zaslavsky with the full-resolution activation method of Gordon. A viewer would desire to display a full resolution and full screen image in order to dedicate their full attention to the broadcast program of interest.

Conclusion

36.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

37.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to PATRICK A. RYAN whose telephone number is

(571)270-5086. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Thur, 8:00am -

5:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Scott Beliveau can be reached on (571) 272-7343. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

38.   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/P. A. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 2623
Sunday, June 01, 2008

/Scott Beliveau/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2623